

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 674 without my signature.

While some provisions may provide marginal improvements to consumer protection, I cannot support this bill when it fails to address the need for stronger licensing and oversight of outpatient surgical centers. The continued reliance by the medical community on external accreditation agencies without enforcement capability is an insufficient solution for protecting patients. As outpatient surgeries continue to increase in number and complexity, surgical centers cannot continue to perform procedures in an unregulated and unenforced environment.

I would ask the medical community to work with my Administration next year to bring consistent and effective oversight to this growing industry in the shared interest of protecting patient safety.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger